

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to voice my strenuous objection to the proposed media consolidation rules currently up for a vote on June 2, 2003.

The United States is at a turning point in its history, and I'm sad to say that it's looking to be for the worse. The majority of Americans rely on their local T.V., radio, and print media for their information, and due to the consolidation that has occurred in the last 7 years (especially since the Telecommunications Act of 1996) many, many voices are being kept off the airwaves. My airwaves. American citizens' airwaves. Let me remind you, you are charged with overseeing the use of the public's airwaves for the public's benefit. Now, I ask you, are you currently accomplishing this job when roughly half the American people polled say they believed there was a direct correlation between the events of 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. This is not true, yet the current media situation allowed this falsehood to be repeated, expanded and broadcast into homes all over the country, leading the American people down a path of misinformation which ultimately lead us to an illegal, unjust, and immoral war.

I have spent the last 3 1/2 hours with my fellow Atlantans, discussing these proposed changes and how awful they will be for the country. I am heartened to know the Michael Copps and Jonathon Adelstein are willing to travel the country to discuss this highly important issue with the public. But what should be happening is that all five commissioners travel the country gathering comments. I don't understand how Michael Powell can deny 150 members of Congress when they request the details of this proposal. How dare you, Michael Powell, hold only one formal hearing, and duck out of being questioned by your public. You should be ashamed, and you should step down. I do not want you and those of your ilk ruining what's left of my country.

The media situation in this country is pathetic currently, and if this vote goes the way of big media we, the 285,000,000 Americans, are the losers. We lose diversity, we lose respectability, we lose an informed and educated citizenry. A democracy cannot function within these parameters. We need dissent, discussion, diversity. We need a strengthening of media ownership rules, more, smaller, independent companies and non-profits, bringing the whole news into our homes. We do not need, or want, this vote to take place, least of all under the circumstances that you are currently working under, trying to force the issue through without any public debate. I want my country back, and the best way to start us back onto a path towards redemption is to forego ANY further consolidation of the media. In fact, let's start busting them up.

A loyal and very concerned citizen,

Melissa Millar, Atlanta, Georgia